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Dear Stansfield Turner:

WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE this opportunity to clarify our position on the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency and respond to some of the important issues you raise in your letter to The Daily dated November 14, 1978.

As you point out in your letter, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities, chaired by Senator Frank Church (D-Idaho) reported that a broad range of factors has shaped the CIA, including the course of international events, pressures from other government agencies, and its own internal norms. This is an obvious assessment with which surely no one could differ. But it does not bring to light the essence of our basic difference: that the CIA is out of control.

To understand this basic conclusion, it is helpful to look back on some of these factors which have, over the course of the CIA's 31-year history, shaped this government agency which has always been, and remains, a threat to the ideal of democracy.

The CIA was established in 1947, under the National Security Act, when the Cold War was building and many in this country perceived World War II as a very real possibility. United States policy makers needed accurate intelligence on and objective analysis of events outside of the country. The CIA was created to provide that service.

According to the Senate Select Committee's final report: "There is no substantial evidence that Congress intended by passage of the National Security Act of 1947 to authorize covert action by the CIA or that Congress even anticipated that the CIA would engage in such activities."

Again, according to the Committee's report, the director of central intelligence (DCI) approved all covert action projects on his own authority between 1949 and 1952. From that point to the mid-1950s, there was only minimal restrictions placed on the DCI — the DCI coordinated approval of covert action projects with a

What is most important about this virtually unfettered period in the CIA's history is the attitude which pervaded the agency and the tone, if not the general demeanor, it set for all further CIA covert activities. This attitude about, and rationale for, covert activities was described in the introduction of a top secret report on CIA covert activities prepared for President Eisenhower. The report stated:

It is now clear that we are facing an implacable enemy whose avowed objective is world domination by whatever means, and at whatever cost. There are no rules in such a game. Hitherto acceptable norms of human conduct do not apply. If the U.S. is to survive, longstanding American concepts of "fair play" must be reconsidered. We must develop effective espionage and counterespionage services and must learn to subvert, sabotage, and destroy our enemies by more clever, more sophisticated, and more effective methods than those used against us. It may become necessary that the American people be made acquainted with, understand and support this fundamentally repugnant philosophy.

IT WAS THIS "fundamentally repugnant philosophy" in the CIA which gave rise to the secret 25-year, \$25 million effort by the agency to learn how to control the human mind. Under the project names of BLUEBIRD, ARTICHOKE, MKULTRA, and MKDELTA, the CIA essayed to develop, according to a January 25, 1952 CIA memorandum, "any method by which we can get information from a person against his will and without his knowledge."

These experiments, often carried out on unwitting subjects in hospitals, mental institutions, and prisons, were performed after the international standard for medical experimentation on humans had been set at the Nuremberg trials for Nazi war criminals. It said that medical experiments should be for the good of mankind and that a person must give full and informed consent before being

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